

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the office action dated April 28, 2009. The allowability of claims 4-5, 11, and 14-18 if rewritten in independent form is noted with appreciation. Accordingly, claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the elements of claim 5, its base claim and all intervening claims, which the examiner indicated would be allowable. Therefore, claim 1 should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 5. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 8 has been rewritten to include all of the elements of claim 11, its base claim and all intervening claims, which the examiner indicates would be allowable. Therefore, claim 8 should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 11. Claims 10-11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

New claim 19 includes all of the elements of claim 17, its base claim and all intervening claims, which the examiner indicated would be allowable. Therefore, claim 19 should be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is requested.

Non-Art Matters

Claims 1, 7, 8, and 14 have been amended to correct the informalities objected to by the Examiner.

Prior Art Matters

Claims 1-2 and 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,555,396 to Alferness et al. (*hereinafter*, “Alferness”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,926,458 to Yin (*hereinafter*, “Yin”). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alferness in view of Yin, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,810,012 to Yin (*hereinafter*, “Yin’012”). Claims 8-9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yin in view of Alferness. Claims 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yin in view of Alferness, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0140196 to Wolrich et al. (*hereinafter*, “Wolrich”). Withdrawal of these rejections is requested for reasons set forth herein.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the elements of claim 5, its base claim and all intervening claims, which the examiner indicated would be allowable. Therefore, claim 1 should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 5. Claims 2-4, 6-7 and 15-18 directly depend from claim 1, and thus contain each and every element of claim 1, and consequently should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 8 has been rewritten to include all of the elements of claim 11, its base claim and all intervening claims, which the examiner indicates would be allowable. Therefore, claim 8 should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 11. Claims 9-10, and 12-14 directly depend from claim 8, and thus contain each and every element of claim 8, and consequently should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 8.

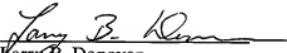
New claim 19 includes all of the elements of claim 17, its base claim and all intervening claims, which the examiner indicated would be allowable. Therefore, claim 19 should be in condition for allowance. Claim 20 directly depends from claim 19, and thus contains each and every element of claim 19, and consequently should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 19.

Conclusion

Withdrawal of the objections and rejections to this application is requested for the reasons set forth herein and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 72255/00462.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7-21-09


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